

BY ELECTRONIC FILING
MAIL STOP — RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Response To Notice
Of Improper Request For Continued Examination

I. Introduction

The application is on appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. On October 9, 2007, Applicants filed a Request for Continued Examination and an Information Disclosure Statement to make of record prior art that had recently been identified in a Search Report of the European Patent Office of the corresponding European application. On October 9, 2007, Applicants also filed a petition for a four-month extension of time to file the Appeal Brief, i.e., from June 9, 2007, to October 9, 2007. Accordingly, the RCE was timely filed on October 9, 2007.

On October 19, 2007, the United States Patent and Trademark Office issued a Notice of Improper Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

In response to the Notice, Applicants submit the following reply to the United States Patent and Trademark Office Examiner's Action dated November 7, 2006, in accord with the requirement set forth in 37 CFR § 1.14(c).

Applicants submit herewith a request for a fifth month extension to file the Appeal Brief, i.e., from October 9, 2007, to November 9, 2007. Accordingly, Applicants' response is timely as it is being filed electronically on November 8, 2007.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees or underpayment of fees or credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 160750.